

# The Charleston Advocate.

"As ye would that men should do unto you, do ye even so to them."

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The Charleston Advocate.

CHARLESTON, S. C., APRIL 6, 1867.

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Platform of the Union Republican Party of South Carolina.

Whereas, The Founders of this Republic based the same on the self-evident truth, "that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator, with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness;" and

Whereas, It is set forth in the "Preamble of the Federal Constitution of 1787, that it was ordained, not by the several States, or inhabitants thereof, but by "the people of the United States," in order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and to secure the blessings of "liberty" to its "founders," and their "posterity;" and

Whereas, Congress by its well-considered, and almost unanimous, action, (which action has had the sanction of the loyal people of the country) has provided, by the Constitutional Amendment proposed as "Art. 14," and by the recent "Reconstruction Bill" for the reorganization of the civil powers of the States lately in rebellion, and for the renewal of their representation in Congress, and

Whereas, We recognize in those legislative provisions, wise statesmanship as regards the future; justice tempered with mercy towards the former enemies of the Union; and strong guarantees for the protection of all loyal citizens without distinction of race, or color, or previous condition, in the enjoyment of every right conferred by the Constitution, and

Whereas, We regard the great National Republican Party under the guiding hand of Divine Providence, as the Savior of our country from the perils of the late rebellion for the destruction of the Union, and as the only party whose principles can justify us in committing the present and future interests of the country for safe keeping;

*Therefore, Resolved;*

I. That we give our cordial and entire sanction to the action of Congress for the restoration of the Union, and to the wise and just principles of the Republican party.

II. That, in order to make the labors

of all our loyal fellow citizens, more effectual for carrying out the provisions of Congress, for the restoration of law and order, in our State, as well as for the peace and prosperity of our entire country, we do form an association to be known as the Union Republican Party of South Carolina.

III. That we pledge our sacred honor, our fortunes and our lives to serve our country, to preserve her institutions, and especially to aid her in keeping inviolate the national faith, which has been sacredly pledged to the payment of the nation's debt incurred to save the liberties of the country, and to suppress rebellion, and that the people will not suffer this faith to be violated or impaired; but all debts incurred to support the rebellion, as they were unlawful, void and of no obligations, shall never be assumed by the United States, nor shall South Carolina be permitted to pay any debt whatever, which was contracted to aid the rebellion in any form.

IV. That the nation owes to the brave men, white and colored, of our army and navy, a debt of lasting gratitude, for their heroic services in defense of the Constitution and the Union, and that while we cherish, with a tender affection, the memories of the fallen, we pledge to their widows and orphans, the nation's care and protection.

V. That as republican institutions cannot be preserved, unless intelligence be generally diffused among all classes, we will demand, of our legislature, a uniform system of common schools, which shall be open to all, without distinction of race, color, or previous condition; such system to be supported by a general tax upon all kinds of property.

VI. That we will favor a liberal system of public improvements, such as railroads, canals, and other works; and also, such a system of awarding contracts for the same, as will give all our fellow citizens an equal and fair chance to share in them.

VII. That we will also insist upon such modification of the laws of the state as will do away with imprisonment for debt, except for fraud, and imprisonment of witnesses except for wilful absence, and, especially, to abolish entrapment.

VIII. That as large land monopolies tend only to make the rich richer, and the poor poorer, and are injurious to the agricultural, commercial, and social interests of the state, the legislature should offer every practicable inducement for the division and sale of unoccupied lands among the poorer classes, and as an encouragement to immigrants to settle in our state.

IX. That the law of election and restraint should be so modified as to protect equally the landlord and the tenant.

X. That provision should be made for the exemption of the "poor man's home-stead."

XI. That the interests of the state demand a revision of the entire code of laws, and the re-organization of the courts.

XII. That the interests, not only of the state, but of the whole country, demand every possible guarantee for the perpetuity of all the rights conferred upon the newly enfranchised portion of our fellow citizens, and that in the use of the sacred right of the elective franchise, we will seek to elevate to offices of trust and honor, only those who are truly loyal, honest, and capable, irrespective of race, color, or previous condition.

XIII. That considerations of justice and humanity demand provision, by the Legislature, for the protection and support of all the aged, infirm and helpless poor, irrespective of race, color, or previous condition.

XIV. That we will not support any candidate for office, who will not openly endorse the principles adopted by the Union Republican Party.

XV. Relying upon Divine Providence for wisdom in our councils, efficiency in action, harmony among ourselves, "with

malice towards none, and charity to all," we pledge our earnest and best efforts for the return of peace and prosperity to all our people, and an early representation of our beloved State in the Congress of the United States.

## COMMITTEE.

H. JUDGE MOORE, Chairman.  
M. G. CAMERON, B. E. REES,  
E. J. ADAMS, J. P. M. EPPING,  
PETER MILLER, B. F. RANDOLPH,  
J. N. HAYNE, R. C. DELAROC,  
J. B. MORRIS, F. L. CARDOZA,  
J. D. PRICE, S. L. BENNETT,  
W. J. BROWN.

Judge Epping's Address.

At the ratification meeting on Citadel Green Judge Epping remarked as follows:

*Friends and Fellow Citizens:*—We are assembled this afternoon to carry into practical effect the great privilege given to the loyal people of South Carolina by the Congress of the United States.

*The first* of these is the grant of universal suffrage to the colored man.—*The second* is the protection given to all loyal men for free speech, free press, and freedom to meet in public to discuss their several rights and interests.

The colored man and the loyal white man of the south having now received from Congress the right and power to protect themselves, it behoves them to be watchful and circumspect, so that these rights will not be taken away by ingenious legislation of the shrewd and crafty rebels.

If we allow them to deceive us and elect them to control the reorganization of the state, and framing of the new constitution, they will use such subtle language in framing the law, that none of you will see the danger until it is too late—yes, too late it will be when the working man, whether white or colored, finds out that he is again subjected to involuntary servitude under the name of "sugar laws," "vagrant laws," and the like.

I say again, therefore, it behoves us to be on the alert, and secure now and forever, the great boon of liberty and right bestowed upon us by Congress; for if we fail to protect ourselves now, Congress, and the people of the Northern States, will be led to believe that we are guilty for freedom and self-government.

Remember, Patrick Henry said truthfully, "The price of liberty is eternal vigilance."

VIII. That as large land monopolies tend only to make the rich richer, and the poor poorer, and are injurious to the agricultural, commercial, and social interests of the state, the legislature should offer every practicable inducement for the division and sale of unoccupied lands among the poorer classes, and as an encouragement to immigrants to settle in our state.

X. That the law of election and restraint should be so modified as to protect equally the landlord and the tenant.

XI. That provision should be made for the exemption of the "poor man's home-stead."

XII. That the interests of the state demand a revision of the entire code of laws, and the re-organization of the courts.

XIII. That the interests, not only of the state, but of the whole country, demand every possible guarantee for the perpetuity of all the rights conferred upon the newly enfranchised portion of our fellow citizens, and that in the use of the sacred right of the elective franchise, we will seek to elevate to offices of trust and honor, only those who are truly loyal, honest, and capable, irrespective of race, color, or previous condition.

XIV. That we will not support any candidate for office, who will not openly endorse the principles adopted by the Union Republican Party.

XV. Relying upon Divine Providence for wisdom in our councils, efficiency in action, harmony among ourselves, "with

he possesses real estate to the amount of \$250; but every white man can vote without this property qualification. Or they will imitate the Massachusetts constitution which prescribes that every voter must be able to read and write, together with such other subtle contrivance as will place them in power in this State again forever. Now, my fellow citizens, I ask you, will you give them this chance? (terts of "no," "no.")

Gen. Wade Hampton and his conferees tell you that the white and colored men have the same interest—the same destiny, and that the two races must prosper or perish together. And he exhorts your people to try those of the community whom they have known, and not to experiment on the sympathies of strangers. He says, try him and his aristocratic brethren, who held slavery to be a divine institution, made and inaugurated by the Almighty himself, for their special benefit, so that they could revel in idleness and luxury. He advises you to try them again until you find yourselves deceived. But where will you be if you find yourselves deceived? You will be in a worse state of slavery than you were ever before, and with no chance nor power to extricate yourselves. Nobody will pity you—nobody will help you. You will but have made the sayings of your former oppressors true, that you are unfit for freedom, and self-government.

And you, my white fellow citizens, who do not belong to the oligarchy which has ruled you with rods stronger than iron—those that have held you in mental slavery and thralldom—it is for you also to beware how you put again this same class into power.

Have you forgotten the despotism that reigned over this beautiful land during the war?

Have you forgotten how you were drag-

ged from your families, to fight for the organization of your own bondage?

Have you forgotten that a white man's life and liberty were nothing in the eyes

of these men, because it cost them nothing? And that the life of one of their human chattels was of a great deal more consequence to them because of its monetary value?

And hence the whole rebellion was nothing but a rich man's war and a poor man's fight.

If the rebellion had succeeded, do you think that the Republican form of government would have long survived? No, it would soon have been converted into a mere despotic government than was ever known to the world.

The monarchies of the olden times would have been lenient and liberal in comparison to it; and the white laboring man would soon have been driven from the country altogether. Be wise, then, my fellow citizens; join in with the colored man, and take the organization of the State into your own hands, and keep

from power those men who would only seek to put you in a degraded position.

Look around you—look at the destruction caused by their mad folly—look around your firesides, and notice the vacant chairs, the missing members of your family; look at the maimed, the widows,

and orphans in the land, and then ask yourselves, who is it that has done all this? Will you give these men who should do penance in sackcloth and ashes, the complete political control in this State again, as if none of them were disengaged, and the control of the ballot was still in their hands? As if the shackles were still on the arms of their former slaves, and you were still spell-bound in the thralldom that the era of slavery had cast around you?

Support them, new men and new measures, so that your queenly city will rise like the Phoenix from its ashes, to wealth and power. Yes, let Charleston once get a fair start, and she will soon compete in trade and commerce with the larger cities

of the North, which although once far behind in importance to Charleston, have through means of free institutions, free press, and freedom of speech, gone far ahead of her.

We invite all; we invite the son of the ruined and dispirited planter, the son of

the heart-stricken and impoverished widow, in fact, all classes who have to start in the world anew, and who have to put their shoulders to the wheel in order to gain an honest livelihood, we invite them to join us in our efforts to regenerate this poor blighted, slave-cursed, and war-scarred State. Or will you, sons of old Carolina, still persist in following the fortunes of your Rhett's, your Hutchinses, and your Barkers? One of them a member of your State Legislature, I heard boldly declare in open court, but a few days ago, that he reluctantly took the oath to support the Constitution of the United States; and that he had been forced by military authority to swallow the amnesty oath. I ask, will you still follow such mudmen, and bring new desolation upon your country and yourselves? I hope not. Endorse then heartily, our platform; acknowledge that the colored man who has such a vast majority in the State, has a right to cast his vote for whom he pleases; and that, in justice to the great interests he has at stake, he has a right to be represented in the councils of the State, and in its law making assemblies. Do but this simple act of justice to the colored man, and all will be well. Come then, one and all, join our standard and stand upon our platform; and peace, prosperity and happiness will again prevail throughout the land.

For the Charleston Advocate.

## Republicanism at Sumter.

The spirit which has moved the freedmen of the metropolis of the State, has stirred the people of Sumter, and a most decided expression was made on Monday night last, in that city, by the lately enfranchised citizens of the commonwealth,

at a public meeting held at the M. E. Church. The speaker on the occasion of Education for the Eastern part of the State; some of the most influential

citizens were present—the long-ago lawmakers, executors and breakers—the once potent, grave and ruling seignors were there. For once, in the history of events, stern, sober, unanswerable truth was spoken in language that none could mistake, while the freedmen were enlightened as to their new rights, responsibilities and duties under *The Major Charter* now conferred upon them, in the provisions of "The Military Reconstruction Bill." The late masters of the slaves, "that were," sat with them to be told that they were the cause of the change so memorable and radical before them. The speaker reviewed the past, its prejudices, tyrannies, interdictions, the cause of the war, its result, the chances given to the *would-be destroyers of the Republic* to stand on equal ground with the *always loyal*, their refusal to act wisely, their defiant attitude in the work of rehabilitation until Congress was driven to the passage of an act, which defines the ways and means of reconstruction not to be rejected or defeated.

Look around you—look at the destruction caused by their mad folly—look around your firesides, and notice the vacant chairs, the missing members of your family; look at the maimed, the widows,

and orphans in the land, and then ask yourselves, who is it that has done all this? Will you give these men who should do penance in sackcloth and ashes, the complete political control in this State again, as if none of them were disengaged, and the control of the ballot was still in their hands? As if the shackles were still on the arms of their former slaves, and you were still spell-bound in the thralldom that the era of slavery had cast around you?

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of the North, which although once far behind in importance to Charleston, have through means of free institutions, free press, and freedom of speech, gone far ahead of her.

We invite all; we invite the son of the ruined and dispirited planter, the son of

to do; acquiesce in the demands of the hour, act for the present, quit hanging upon the impossible and seize hold of the inevitable. The freedmen were exhorted to vigilance, to stand guard over their privileges, to unite in purpose and determine not to be the dupes of the jayhawkers of their legislated prerogative.

"The Platform of the Union Republican Party of South Carolina," as adopted at a mass meeting of the colored citizens of Charleston, was read to the meeting and received the endorsement of the enthusiastic crowd. "While much," said the speaker, "will be done to divide, distract and mislead you, it remains with you to show that the malice, intrigue or devices of all shall be of no avail; take counsel of your friends, and hear the advice of the pretending, but, out of all, learn wisdom.

The future of the noble Republic, free in fact as well as proclamation, with the inalienable rights of man acknowledged, established; humanity's plea triumphant; *all men* starting in the race of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," was portrayed in glowing imagery, while the noble satisfaction of being in union with the purposes of Heaven, inspired every heart and every mind with assurances of victory as perfect as the final triumph of *right over wrong*."

The speaker closed with pangs of denunciation upon those who would sever or prevent the union of the States, the rights of her citizens and the hopes of the future; while he honored the defenders of the flag, the guardians of national honor and greatness, the enfranchised loyalists, to whom he looked for integrity and invincibility in the "Onward march" of events, for:

"The land of the brave is the land of the free, and each should excel each in endeavor!"—ALPHA.

## A Colored man's instruction.

HON. EDWARD G. WALKER, of Charles-ton, a colored member of the Massachusetts Legislature, made an able speech on the duty of Massachusetts towards the Constitutional Amendment. The conclusion was as follows:

"I have heard gentlemen say, 'A year ago I would have voted for the amendment.' Sir, I never would have voted for it. I never would vote for any law the tendency of which is to place the helpless